Legal Affairs



These three offices, while unique in function, complement each other to ensure the development of and adherence to effective, appropriate environmental rules and legislation.

Office of Criminal Investigations

The primary duty of IDEM's Office of Criminal Investigations (OCI) is to investigate allegations of criminal violations of Indiana's environmental protection laws and to prepare a case for presentation to the prosecuting attorney who has jurisdiction over the alleged violations. In some instances, these investigative efforts are directed toward the presentation of a case at a federal level. In addition to conducting criminal investigations, the OCI investigators assist IDEM program areas in administrative and civil investigations, conduct internal investigations and provide training for IDEM

personnel. www.state.in.us/idem/oci



Office of Enforcement

The Office of Enforcement (OE) uses the administrative enforcement process to ensure that entities violating environmental laws or rules are returned to compliance. OE has continued to focus on expediting the enforcement action resolution process and increasing its use of supplemental environmental projects that allow companies to perform environmentally beneficial projects in lieu of an assessed cash penalty.

In late 1999, OE implemented the Multi-media Enforcement Tracking System (METS), a searchable database of all pending and closed enforcement actions for the entire agency, METS has enabled OE to rapidly respond to the many public information requests made by Hoosiers and businesses concerning enforcement actions.



www.state.in.us/ idem/oe/

Office of Legal Counsel The Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) provides all agency offices with the legal counsel and representation needed to carry out IDEM's many and varied functions. OLC represents the agency in administrative litigation and enforcement proceedings and works closely with the Indiana Attorney General's Office in agency matters that are proceeding in court. OLC advises on permitting and other licensing matters, assists in rule making and legislative efforts and serves as counsel to the state natural resources trustee for IDEM. In addition to these environmental law functions, OLC also assists in drafting and negotiating agency contracts and provides counsel and representation in agency personnel matters.

OLC has recently expanded by taking over management of the agency's consolidated file room and has been instrumental in improving public record awareness and response procedures throughout the agency.



